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## PROMPTNESS OF FY 2002 SECOND QUARTER DOD PAYMENTS TO THE U.S. TREASURY FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WATER AND SEWER SERVICES

Report No. D-2002-040

January 15, 2002

Office of the Inspector General  
Department of Defense

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### **Acronyms**

DFAS	Defense Finance and Accounting Service
WASA	Water and Sewer Authority



INSPECTOR GENERAL  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
400 ARMY NAVY DRIVE  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22202-4704

January 15, 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
(COMPTROLLER)  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
(FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND  
COMPTROLLER)  
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE FINANCE AND  
ACCOUNTING SERVICE  
DIRECTOR, WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS  
SERVICES  
AUDITOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE  
ARMY  
NAVAL INSPECTOR GENERAL

SUBJECT: Audit Report on the Promptness of FY 2002 Second Quarter DoD  
Payments to the U.S. Treasury for District of Columbia Water and  
Sewer Services (Report No. D-2002-040)

We are providing this audit report for information and use. The audit was mandated by Public Law 106-554. No written response to this report was required and none was received. Therefore, we are publishing this report in final form.

We appreciate the courtesies extended to the audit staff. Questions on the audit should be directed to Mr. Henry F. Kleinknecht at (703) 604-9324 (DSN 664-9324) ([hkleinknecht@dodig.osd.mil](mailto:hkleinknecht@dodig.osd.mil)) or Mr. Ronald W. Hodges at (703) 604-9592 (DSN 664-9592) ([rhodges@dodig.osd.mil](mailto:rhodges@dodig.osd.mil)). See Appendix C for the report distribution. The audit team members are listed inside the back cover.

*David K. Steensma*  
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Acting Assistant Inspector General  
for Auditing

## Office of the Inspector General, DoD

**Report No. D2002-040**  
(Project No. D2001FA-0154.002)

**January 15, 2002**

### **Promptness of FY 2002 Second Quarter DoD Payments to the U.S. Treasury for District of Columbia Water and Sewer Services**

#### **Executive Summary**

**Introduction.** This report covers FY 2002 second quarter payments and is one in a series of reports discussing the promptness and completeness of DoD payments to the U.S. Treasury for District of Columbia water and sewer services. Public Law 106-554, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2001, requires the inspector general of each Federal agency to audit the agency's promptness in paying the District of Columbia for water and sewer services. The audit reports must be submitted to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees within 15 days of the start of each quarter.

The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority supplies both water and sewer services to Federal agencies and DoD Components within the National Capital Region. The U.S. Treasury is the collection agent for Federal agencies and DoD Components' water and sewer payments, with the U.S. Treasury submitting a single payment to the Water and Sewer Authority. The DoD Components, composed of 17 separate installations, sites, and organizations, are required to make advance quarterly payments to the U.S. Treasury for estimated bills on anticipated water usage in FY 2002.

**Objective.** The audit objective was to determine the promptness of FY 2002 second quarter DoD payments to the U.S. Treasury for District of Columbia water and sewer services.

**Results.** DoD Components instructed the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to make second quarter FY 2002 payments to the U.S. Treasury for District of Columbia water and sewer services by January 2, 2002. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service initiated action to make payments on the instructed date; however, the U.S. Treasury withdrew \$1 million available to Army and Defense Components on the same day to pay the District of Columbia. The U.S. Treasury did not withdraw payments from the Navy and Air Force Components because of credit balances from prior overpayments, or from Arlington National Cemetery's appropriation because of Public Law 107-20. Army officials dispute the appropriateness of \$77,000 that the

U.S. Treasury withdrew for second quarter FY 2002 water and sewer services for Fort Myer, because Fort Myer discontinued receiving water services from the District of Columbia in 1999.

**Management Comments.** We provided a draft report on January 9, 2002. No written response to this report was required and none was received. Therefore, we are publishing this report in final form.

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## Background

This audit was required by Public Law 106-554, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2001. Public Law 106-554 requires the inspector general of each Federal agency that receives water and sewer services from the District of Columbia to report to the Congressional Appropriations Committees on the promptness of payments within 15 days of the start of each quarter. This report covers FY 2002 second quarter payments and is one in a series of reports discussing the promptness and completeness of DoD payments to the U.S. Treasury for District of Columbia water and sewer services.

**The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority.** The District of Columbia supplies both water and sewer services to Federal agencies and DoD Components within the National Capital Region. Since October 1996, the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) has been responsible for delivery of water and sewer services to DoD Components. WASA provides meter readings and annual estimated billings to the U.S. Treasury for water and sewer services provided to the Federal agencies, including DoD Components.

**U.S. Treasury Responsibility.** Under the District of Columbia Public Works Act of 1954, the Federal Government was to receive water and sewer services from the District of Columbia, and the District of Columbia was paid with an annual lump sum in accordance with the District of Columbia Appropriations Act. The District of Columbia Appropriations Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-168) changed the payment process by designating the U.S. Treasury as the collection agent for the Federal agencies' water and sewer payments, with the U.S. Treasury remitting a single payment to the District of Columbia. Public Law 106-554 amends the process used by the Federal agencies to make payments to the U.S. Treasury. The U.S. Treasury is now authorized and directed to automatically withdraw funds from Federal agencies and provide those funds to WASA by the second day of each quarter when agencies do not forward timely payments of amounts billed by WASA. The U.S. Treasury bills Federal agencies and DoD Components annually for their estimated water and sewer usage and makes quarterly payments to WASA based on meter readings and estimates provided by WASA. The DoD Components are required to make quarterly payments to the U.S. Treasury for those annual estimated bills. See Appendix B for a list of DoD components, composed of 17 separate installations, sites, and organizations, that received WASA services.

**Public Law 107-20.** Public Law 107-20, the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2001, removes the authority of the U.S. Treasury to withdraw funds from Arlington National Cemetery (Cemetery) for payment to the District of Columbia for water and sewer services. The law requires that DoD pay the difference between the amount the Cemetery previously paid for estimated water bills and the actual amount billed to the Cemetery. Furthermore, the law requires that for FY 2002 and future years, the Cemetery's water and sewer bills be based on metering on the grounds of the Cemetery. The law also directs the U.S. Treasury to reimburse the Cemetery for previous withdrawals with funds taken from other DoD appropriation accounts.

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**Federal Agencies Responsibility.** Public Law 101-168 mandates responsibility to the respective Federal agencies for payment of water and sewer services. The funds for the services come through the agencies' operating budgets and their respective appropriations bills. Each quarterly payment is due to the U.S. Treasury account, "Federal Payment for Water and Sewer Services," on the first day of the quarter. DoD Components make their payments to the U.S. Treasury through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS).

**DFAS Responsibilities.** DFAS provides finance and accounting services, to include making bill payments, to DoD Components and other Federal agencies. Specifically, DFAS-Indianapolis Center provides financial services to the Army, DFAS-Cleveland Center provides those same services to the Navy, and DFAS-Omaha Operating Location provides financial services to the Air Force. The DoD Components submit requests for payments of water and sewer services to the appropriate DFAS location, and DFAS pays the U.S. Treasury either by check or electronic transfer in the amount indicated on the request.

## **Objective**

The audit objective was to determine the promptness of DoD FY 2002 second quarter payments to the U.S. Treasury for District of Columbia water and sewer services. See Appendix A for a discussion of the audit scope and methodology and prior coverage related to audit objectives.

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## **DoD FY 2002 Second Quarter Payments to the U.S. Treasury**

DoD Components instructed DFAS to make second quarter FY 2002 payments to the U.S. Treasury for District of Columbia water and sewer services by January 2, 2002. DFAS initiated action to make payments on the instructed date; however, the U.S. Treasury withdrew \$1 million available to Army and Defense Components on the same day to pay the District of Columbia. The U.S. Treasury did not withdraw payments from the Navy and Air Force Components because of credit balances from prior overpayments, or from Arlington National Cemetery's appropriation because of Public Law 107-20. Army officials dispute the appropriateness of \$77,000 that the U.S. Treasury withdrew for second quarter FY 2002 water and sewer services for Fort Myer, because Fort Myer discontinued receiving water services from the District of Columbia in 1999.

## **Promptness of FY 2002 Second Quarter DoD Payments**

DoD Components, except for Fort Myer and Arlington National Cemetery, attempted to make prompt payments of their District of Columbia water and sewer bills for the second quarter of FY 2002 by obligating the funds for payment and instructing DFAS to make second quarter FY 2002 payments for the water and sewer services by January 2, 2002. However, DFAS did not make the payments by January 2, 2002, and the U.S. Treasury withdrew \$1 million available to Army and Defense Components on the same day to pay the District of Columbia. The U.S. Treasury did not withdraw funds for Arlington National Cemetery's bill. The Cemetery did not make FY 2002 first and second quarter payments for water and sewer services. The Cemetery plans to pay \$80,000 for its FY 2002 estimated water and sewer bill. Further payments from the Cemetery will be based on actual water and sewer usage. As shown in the following table, DoD Components were billed \$2.1 million, and the U.S. Treasury withdrew \$1 million for the FY 2002 second quarter payment.

**DoD Components' FY 2002 Second Quarter Bills and Payments  
(As of January 2, 2002)**

	Amount Billed (thousands)	Credits from Overpayments (thousands)	Amount Withdrawn (thousands)
Pentagon	\$ 343	\$ 0	\$ 343
Arlington National Cemetery	89	0	0
Fort Myer <sup>1</sup>	77	0	77
Walter Reed Army Medical Center	382	0	382
Fort McNair <sup>2</sup>	6 <sup>3</sup>	0	0
Navy <sup>4,5</sup>	634	(1,028)	0
Bolling Air Force Base <sup>6</sup>	409	(580)	0
National Imagery and Mapping Agency	205	0	205
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,145</b>	<b>\$1,608</b>	<b>\$1,007</b>

<sup>1</sup>Fort Myer discontinued water services in January 1999. Fort Myer receives and pays for water services provided by Arlington County, Virginia

<sup>2</sup>Includes Fort McNair, National War College, and National Defense University Center

<sup>3</sup>Fort McNair paid \$24,000 for the FY 2002 bill in the first quarter (\$6,000 per quarter) and thus is not required to make quarterly payments

<sup>4</sup>Includes Anacostia Naval Station, Bellevue Naval Housing, Naval Observatory, Marine Corps Barracks (8th & I), Naval Research Laboratory, Nebraska Avenue Annex, Potomac Annex, and Washington Navy Yard

<sup>5</sup>Estimated amount billed for FY 2002 was \$2.5 million (\$634,000 represents the quarterly amount billed); a credit adjustment of \$4.1 million (\$1,028,000 represents the quarterly credit) for FY 1999 overpayments

<sup>6</sup>Estimated amount billed for FY 2002 was \$1.6 million (\$409,000 represents the quarterly amount billed); a credit adjustment of \$2.3 million (\$580,000 represents the quarterly credit) for FY 1999 overpayments

## Water and Sewer Bill for Fort Myer

The U.S. Treasury withdrew \$77,000 for water and sewer services billed by the District of Columbia to Fort Myer. Army officials at Fort Myer believe that the bill should not be paid because in January of 1999 (FY 1999), Fort Myer discontinued water services with WASA after one quarter of usage. The Army previously paid \$185,000 for FY 1999 estimated water usage for Fort Myer. As a result, Army officials contend that the \$185,000 paid on the FY 1999 estimated water usage for Fort Myer should be sufficient. Since Public Law 101-168 does not provide a mechanism to resolve billing disputes between WASA and Federal Agencies or between Federal Agencies and the U.S. Treasury, the Army will continue to work with the U.S. Treasury and WASA to resolve all outstanding issues regarding Fort Myer.

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## Appendix A. Audit Process

### Scope and Methodology

**Work Performed.** We reviewed DoD Component billing and payment information for the second quarter of FY 2002 for District of Columbia water and sewer services. Specifically, we reviewed bills received by DoD Components from the U.S. Treasury to establish the amounts billed for water and sewer services. We contacted the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to verify that payment was initiated. We also contacted the U.S. Treasury to confirm that funds available to DoD Components were withdrawn to pay the District of Columbia for FY 2002 second quarter water and sewer bills. See Appendix B for a list of the DoD Components that received water and sewer services from WASA.

**General Accounting Office High-Risk Area.** The General Accounting Office has identified several high-risk areas in the DoD. This report provides coverage of the Financial Management high-risk area.

**Use of Computer-Processed Data.** We did not rely on computer-processed data for our review of billing and payment data for water and sewer services provided to DoD Components by the District of Columbia.

**Audit Type, Dates, and Standards.** We performed this financial-related audit from December 2001 through January 8, 2002, in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.

**Contacts During the Audit.** We visited or contacted individuals and organizations within the DoD, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, and the U.S. Treasury. Further details are available upon request.

### Prior Coverage

#### Inspector General, DoD

Inspector General, DoD, Report No. D-2002-007, "Promptness of FY 2002 First Quarter DoD Payments to the U.S. Treasury for District of Columbia Water and Sewer Services," October 15, 2001

Inspector General, DoD, Report No. D-2001-159, "Promptness and Completeness of FY 2001 Fourth Quarter DoD Payments to the U.S. Treasury for Water and Sewer Services Provided by the District of Columbia," July 13, 2001

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Inspector General, DoD, Report No. D-2001-100, "Promptness and Completeness of FYs 2000 and 2001 DoD Payments to the U.S. Treasury for Water and Sewer Services Provided by the District of Columbia," April 13, 2001

Inspector General, DoD, Report No. D-2001-053, "DoD Payments to the U.S. Treasury for Water and Sewer Services Provided by the District of Columbia," February 15, 2001

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## **Appendix B. DoD Customers of the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority**

According to the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority, the list below identifies the 17 DoD Components for which the Water and Sewer Authority provides estimated bills to the U.S. Treasury for water and sewer services for FY 2002.

### **Army**

Arlington Cemetery  
Fort McNair  
Fort Myer  
Walter Reed Army Medical Center

### **Navy**

Anacostia Naval Station  
Bellevue Naval Housing  
Marine Corps Barracks, 8th & I  
Naval Observatory  
Naval Research Laboratory  
Nebraska Avenue Annex  
Potomac Annex  
Washington Navy Yard

### **Air Force**

Bolling Air Force Base

### **Other Defense Organizations**

National Defense University Center  
National Imagery and Mapping Agency  
National War College  
Washington Headquarters Services

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## **Appendix C. Report Distribution**

### **Office of the Secretary of Defense**

Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)  
Deputy Chief Financial Officer  
Deputy Comptroller (Program/Budget)

### **Department of the Army**

Auditor General, Department of the Army  
Commander, Walter Reed Army Medical Center  
Commander, Fort Myer  
Director, Arlington National Cemetery

### **Department of the Navy**

Naval Inspector General  
Auditor General, Department of the Navy  
Director, Field Support Activity

### **Department of the Air Force**

Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Financial Management and Comptroller)  
Auditor General, Department of the Air Force  
Commander, Bolling Air Force Base

### **Defense Organizations**

Director, Defense Finance and Accounting Service  
Director, National Imagery and Mapping Agency  
Director, Washington Headquarters Services

### **Non-Defense Federal Organizations**

Office of Management and Budget  
Inspector General, Department of the Treasury

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## **Congressional Committees and Subcommittees, Chairman and Ranking Minority Member**

Senate Committee on Appropriations

Senate Subcommittee on Defense, Committee on Appropriations

Senate Committee on Armed Services

Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs

House Committee on Appropriations

House Subcommittee on Defense, Committee on Appropriations

House Committee on Armed Services

House Committee on Government Reform

House Subcommittee on Government Efficiency, Financial Management, and  
Intergovernmental Relations, Committee on Government Reform

House Subcommittee on National Security, Veterans Affairs, and International  
Relations, Committee on Government Reform

House Subcommittee on Technology and Procurement Policy, Committee on  
Government Reform

## **Audit Team Members**

The Contract Management Directorate, Office of the Assistant Inspector General for Auditing, DoD, prepared this report. Personnel of the Office of the Inspector General, DoD, who contributed to the report are listed below.

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